
Geologist: **KEY**

Date: ____ - ____ - ____ HR: _____

Unit 2 - History of the Earth Vocabulary List

tectonic plate	mid ocean ridge	ocean trench	fossil	relative dating	geologic column
law of superposition	earthquake	landslide	meteor impact	volcanic eruption	rock cycle
geologic time	transform	eon	period	era	epoch
divergent	convergent	weathering	erosion	deposition	volcano

1. geologic time	A timeline of the formation and development of the earth that shows the history of events from past to present.
2. law of superposition	Younger rocks form over older rocks.
3. divergent	A tectonic boundary where two plates are dividing.
4. fossil	Naturally preserved remains or traces of a plant or animal that lived in the geologic past.
5. geologic column	An ordered arrangement of rock layers that is based on the relative ages of the rocks and in which the oldest rocks are at the bottom.
6. rock cycle	The process of one type of rock changing into another.
7. earthquake	Movement (bump, shift, and grind) of large tectonic plates sitting on top of magma; any shift of these 17 large plates causes the planet's surface to move.
8. epoch	The geologic unit of time which is divided into ages.
9. convergent	A tectonic boundary where two plates are colliding.
10. mid ocean ridge	An underwater mountain range formed by plate tectonics. This uplifting of the seafloor occurs when convection currents rise in the mantle beneath the sea's crust and create magma where two tectonic plates meet at a divergent boundary.

11. ocean trench	The deepest parts of the seafloor, typically formed when one tectonic plate slides under another.
12. relative dating	Rocks used to arrange geological events in a sequence.
13. meteor impact	Occurs when space debris enters Earth's atmosphere and hits our planet's surface.
14. transform	A tectonic boundary where two plates slide past each other.
15. landslide	Earth's material gliding down from a mountain, cliff, or steep slope; occurs more commonly in areas that have been altered by humans.
16. period	The unit of geologic time which is divided into epochs and usually characterized by specific fossils.
17. volcanic eruption	When magma pushes through the thinner parts of the earth's crust.
18. tectonic plate	Large pieces of the Earth's crust that move very slowly on top of magma in the mantle.
19. eon	The largest unit of geologic time which is divided into eras.
20. era	The unit of geologic time which is divided into periods.
21. weathering	Outside conditions that break rocks into sediments.
22. erosion	Moves sediments over time.
23. deposition	Places sediment in a new location (deposits).
24. volcano	A mountain opening downward to a pool of molten rock below earth's surface.